

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 SS-15 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2685

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

JCS

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

DIRNSA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - THIRD ROUND
STATEMENT

REF: (A) ATHENS 1431 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 36167 (NOTAL)

1. BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY OF THE TWO SIDES TO AGREE
ON THE TEXT OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO DESCRIBE THE RESULTS
OF A THIRD ROUND OF THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS, THE
GOG, WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE USG, ISSUED A PRESS
STATEMENT ON FEB 14 (REFTELS). THIS PRESS STATEMENT, THE
TEXT OF WHICH IS QUOTED IN PARA 2 BELOW, IS A DOCUMENT
WITH WHICH THE USG DOES NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF BUT FROM
WHICH IT PUBLICLY IS NOT DISASSOCIATING ITSELF. ANY
QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT OR THIS
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PROCEDURE ARE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS, BEING REFE

RRED
TO THE GOG.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DELEGATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE MET IN ATHENS JAN 26 TO FEB 13, 1976, FOR A THIRD ROUND OF TALKS ON MUTUAL DEFENSE MATTERS. THE GREEK DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR PETROL CALOGERAS AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION BY MINISTER MONTEAGLE STEARNS.

ALTHOUGH VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WAS MADE ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS UNDER NEGOTIATION, FURTHER TALKS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE AGREEMENT IS REACHED, ON ACCOUNT OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS FOURTH ROUND WILL BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BOTH DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THEIR FULL SATISFACTION FOR THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED. END TEXT.

3. BECAUSE OF THE SPECULATIVE AND INACCURATE TREATMENT WHICH SOME OF THE PRESS ACCORDED THE GOG STATEMENT QUOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, A "CLARIFICATION," THE TEXT OF WHICH IS PROVIDED IN PARA 4 BELOW, WAS RELEASED FEB 16 BY GOVERNMENT SOURCE WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF EXPANDING ON THE UNILATERAL STATEMENT. THE PRESS STORIES WHICH LED TO THIS "CLARIFICATION" AND THE PRESS STORIES WHICH RESULTED FROM IT WILL BE REPORTED IN SEPTEL TO FOLLOW.

4. BEGIN TEXT: QTE THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVT ON THE QUESTION OF THE BASES IS CLEAR. IT WAS PROCLAIMED BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON TWO OCCASIONS IN PARLIAMENT (OCT 15, 1975) IN A MANNER THAT LEAVES NO ROOM FOR MISINTERPRETATIONS:

1. THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN CREATED AS A RESULT OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE US BUT, INSTEAD, BY THE NEED TO HARMONISE THE STATUS OF THE BASES WITH MODERN CONDITIONS AND OUR NATIONAL NEEDS.

2. IT FOLLOWS THAT SOME BASES WILL BE ABOLISHED
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WHILE OTHERS WILL BE LIMITED.

3. IT IS ONLY BASES THAT SERVE CONCURRENTLY OUR DEFENSE INTERESTS THAT WILL BE MAINTAINED.

4. ALL BASES WILL BE PLACED UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK LAID DOWN BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST

DEVIATION OR DISAGREEMENT. A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING HAS PREVAILED. IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF
THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THE SUBJECT THAT VARIOUS TECHNICAL
MATTERS ARISE THAT MAKE IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE DIS-
CUSSION ON SETTLING REMAINING DETAILS ALONGTHE LINES
LAID DOWN BY THE PRIME MINISTER. UNQTE. END TEXT.
KUBISCH

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